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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWS

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you support the creation of a new Marianas Political Status Commission that will re-examine the CNMI's relationship with the United States?

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INSIDE

WORLD



A Senate report declares that the Benghazi assault was preventable.

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OFFBEAT



Wildlife officials are trying to figure out why all the fish died in a Nevada marina.

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LIFE & STYLE



Chris Pine says the U.S. should have done more to protest Russia's anti-gay legislation.

► PAGE 24

US withholds transfer of 5 islands' submerged lands

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

President Barack Obama signed a proclamation yesterday temporarily withholding the transfer to the CNMI of submerged lands around five islands that are either part of a national marine monument or under lease to the U.S. military. Gov. Eloy S. Inos and the Legislature's request for a firm 180-day timeline to come up with a co-management plan, among other things, was not considered.

» **CNMI takes steps to later control withheld submerged lands**

This means the CNMI controls only the submerged 3-mile lands around nine of its 14 islands, until management deals can be completed on the rest.

The CNMI is the last U.S. coastal state or territory to own its offshore lands.

Obama exempted from the transfer to the CNMI the control of submerged lands around Farallon de Pajaros (Uracas), Maug, and Asuncion that are part of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, as well as Tinian and Faral-

See LANDS on Page 4

Kilili seeks 4th term in Congress

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) will mark his 59th birthday on Sunday by officially announcing he is seeking a fourth term in Congress, saying that "experience and seniority make a member of Congress more effective." He will remain an Independent.

"The longer I am in Congress, the more I can accomplish for the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, both in Congress and within the federal government agencies," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

To date, no one else has made known his or her intention to run as delegate in the November race, in which CNMI voters

will also get to pick a governor, an attorney general for the first time, lawmakers, mayors and other officials.

Sablan is the CNMI's only—and so far only—nonvoting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives by virtue of a 2008 law that also placed CNMI immigration under federal control. He was first sworn into office in January 2009.

He was re-elected in the 2010 and 2012 elections. Each term consists of two years.

In the 2012 mid-term race, he won by a landslide against his Republican opponent, Dr. Ignacia "Acha" Demapan. Sablan got 9,829 votes against Demapan's 2,503—a remarkable 7,326-vote lead.

See KILILI on Page 4

AT THE STREET MARKET

Abby Crisostomo, 9, plays with colorful balloons for sale in her mother's booth, "Island Arts and Crafts," at the Garapan Street Market yesterday afternoon at the Garapan Fishing Base. A number of vendors at the Thursday market are protesting a land fee that is equal to 1 percent of each vendor's gross sales, but the Department of Public Lands says it could either waive or reduce such fee if the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs requests and justifies the need to do so.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Public warned of increased flu-like illnesses

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation's Public Health Division cautioned the public yesterday on the increasing number of influenza or flu-like illnesses.

Division director Margaret T. Aldan said the hospital is seeing an increase in the number of these cases and that the flu season may likely continue for weeks.

In a statement yesterday, Aldan "advises the general public that...flu activity is widespread in most of the islands around this time of the year. High levels of flu activity are likely to continue for several more weeks. If you have not gotten your flu vaccine yet this season, you should get one now."

The flu vaccine is the first and best way to protect people from contracting flu and its potentially serious complications, she said.

See PUBLIC on Page 4

Man arrested for allegedly attacking father with chair. PAGE 3
SCC names nominees for Business Person of the Year. PAGE 8

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Castro held on \$1M cash bail in death of baby girl

GUAM (Pacific News Center)—Thirty-one-year-old John Jesse Tudela Castro appeared before Magistrate Judge Alberto Tolentino yesterday afternoon and was formally charged with aggravated murder in the death last weekend of a 23-month-old baby girl.

Castro was ordered held on a \$1 million cash bail.

On Monday, medical examiner Dr. Aurileo Espinola concluded that the child’s death was a homicide after finding that the girl’s skull had been fractured and her intestine and liver were lacerated by blunt force trauma.

Castro was arrested by Guam police early Tuesday morning. Court documents state that he

told police that he may have rolled over on the girl while he was asleep.

Castro appeared on the screen from the Hagatna lockup, head bowed, answering questions from the judge with only a brief “yes sir” or “no sir.”

His attorney, Curtis Van de Veld, questioned the charges, pointing to the magistrate complaint that refers to the medical examiner’s report. The magistrate complaint states that Espinola’s autopsy “report also indicates that there was a contusion to the forehead, and multiple contusions to the back of her head that had occurred several days before the victim was brought to the hospital.”

SDLLC counsel: Maratita, Yumul no desire to pursue taxpayer’s suit

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Rep. Janet U. Maratita and Sen. Ray A. Yumul no longer want to pursue their taxpayers’ lawsuit against the power purchase agreement with Saipan Development LLC since the political goal of removing Benigno R. Fitial as CNMI governor had already been accomplished, according to SDLLC lawyer William Fitzgerald.

In SDLLC’s opposition to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.’s motion to dismiss SDLLC’s lawsuit, Fitzgerald pointed out that an examination of the docket in the taxpayers’ lawsuit will show that, for almost a year, Maratita and Yumul have done nothing except to file a joinder to CUC’s motion for summary judgment on July 26, 2013.

“It is assumed this was done at CUC’s request since the basis for CUC’s summary judgment request that the contract was illegal had not been raised by CUC as a defense,” the lawyer said.

Maratita, through counsel Ramon K. Quichocho, filed the

lawsuit in the Superior Court in August 2012; Yumul joined as co-plaintiff. The lawsuit named as defendants Fitial, CUC, SDLLC, and others, over the allegedly illegal \$190.8 million power purchase agreement that CUC, through the former governor, signed with the Delaware-based SDLLC. Maratita and Yumul sought to have the 25-year PPA declared “unconstitutional, illegal, unconscionable, and unjust, and therefore, cancelled.”

Fitial resigned and left the CNMI in the latter part of 2013 and has not returned to face charges of misconduct filed against him by the Office of the Public Auditor.

Fitzgerald said there were hearings regarding an injunction in the taxpayers’ lawsuit, but no depositions were ever taken and no discovery was submitted.

“In fact, no scheduling order, pursuant to Rule 16 of the Commonwealth Rules of Civil Procedure, has ever been filed,” he noted.

SDLLC in turn, is suing CUC in federal court over the voided PPA.

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Man arrested for allegedly attacking father with chair

A 30-year-old man was arrested for allegedly hitting his father with a dining chair at their house in Sinapalo I, Rota on Monday.

The alleged victim, Henry Ogo, who is in his early 60's, sustained scratches on the left knee and a scrape on the right forearm. He also had a scratch on his chest, police said.

Public's help sought to find rob suspect

The Department of Public Safety sought the public's help yesterday regarding the whereabouts of Manuel Jones Villagomez, who is wanted for his alleged involvement in a robbery case.

DPS spokesman Travis Hurst said the Superior Court issued an arrest warrant against Villagomez on charges of robbery, conspiracy, and disturbing the peace.



Villagomez

Hurst said detectives and police officers from DPS Commonwealth Bureau of Investigation

and the Commonwealth State Police have not been able to capture Villagomez pursuant to this arrest warrant.

Hurst said they are asking for the assistance of CNMI residents for information on the suspect's whereabouts.

Anyone who has information should call DPS.

The DPS police spokesman did not release more details about the case.

Saipan Tribune learned that the incident was about a purse snatching case in Garapan last Dec. 3. The victims were tourists.

Villagomez was arrested early this week for domestic violence and appeared before Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio. The defendant was released after posting bail. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

arrested for illegal possession of a firearm, assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and criminal mischief. He is being kept on a \$50,000 cash bail. Preliminary hearing is on Jan. 21.

Assistant public defender Michael Sato was appointed as Ogo's counsel.

Police detective Tricia A. Manglona stated in her report that the Department of Public Safety dispatcher received a call on Sunday at 11:56pm about an ongoing fight at the house of Henry Ogo.

After a few minutes, another caller reported to police that gunshots were heard coming from the same house.

Henry Ogo told the respond-

ing police officer that he and his wife were asleep when their son, Serafin, arrived and asked him for a fight for no reason. He said his son then started hitting him with a dining chair several times on his body and forearms. Henry Ogo managed to chase out his son from the house. He then called for police's assistance.

Serafin Ogo told police that he and his father got into a fight. He told police that his father just got aggressive when he told him to relax because he was not talk-

ing to him.

The mother told police that Serafin Ogo had asked to borrow their truck but the father refused. The father and son then

argued and started to fight.

One officer searched the house and found a rifle under a blanket. The gun's magazine was still attached. Police secured the gun and arrested Serafin Ogo.

A witness told police that he

heard three gunshots coming from Henry Ogo's house. Manglona's report, however, did not mention as to who fired the gun.

Police learned that it was not the first time that Serafin Ogo allegedly assaulted his father. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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Bureau administrator appoints DEQ, DCRM directors

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality administrator Frank M. Rabauliman appointed on Monday David Rosario as director for the Division of Environmental Quality and Fran Castro as director for the Division of Coastal Resources Management, a day after the effective date of the governor's executive order merging DEQ and CRM Office

under one bureau.

Rabauliman, in his Jan. 13 memo appointing Rosario and Castro, said the agency has changed its name to the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, "although the CRM and DEQ Divisions remain."

Rosario takes over Rabauliman's former post as DEQ director. Prior to the merger, the CRM Office was headed in an interim capacity by Annie Agulto.

"I encourage everyone to work together to ensure that there is no disruption of our day-to-day responsibilities. Please give the directors your full cooperation as we work toward the implementation of this reorganization," Rabauliman said in his one-page memo to DEQ and CRM staff.

Castro said yesterday she's excited "about the opportunity" and is aware of the challenges.

"But first priority is to enhance

all aspects of CRM, especially in the areas of permitting, enforcement, monitoring, outreach and more. We aim to provide efficiency in our services to the public and continuously share information about our programs," Castro told *Saipan Tribune*.

Prior to her appointment as DCRM director, Castro was manager for DEQ's nonpoint source pollution, marine monitoring and coral reef program for 16 years.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos' Nov. 12 executive order merging DEQ and CRM Office was put on the spotlight when the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee raised concerns about possible loss of federal funds if the reorganization pushes through, among other things.

The JGO panel recommended rejection of the governor's EO barely days before the 60-day legislative deadline to either

modify or reject the reorganizational plan.

Later, however, the report recommending rejection was referred back to committee, owing to new information that shed light on some of the original concerns, including assurances from federal grantors National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that the CNMI does not risk losing money if DEQ and CRM merge.

Board: Lab certification a 'confidence booster' for CHC

»CMS: Repeat deficiencies would be basis for immediate sanctions

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The latest decision by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to reaffirm the certificate of the public hospital's laboratory department is a "confidence booster" not only to the organization's staff and personnel but also to the very people it serves on the island, according to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board chair Joaquin Torres yesterday.

He said the board has been upbeat on the issue and in every step of the process to full compliance since Day 1.

"CMS issues are on top of the board's priority. Hearing the latest decision from CMS is a welcome news for all of us. It's good to see all efforts have paid off. Definitely, this is a confidence booster not only to our staff but to our people who own this public hospital," Torres told *Saipan Tribune*.

He assured all stakeholders of the corporation's continued commitment to deliver

quality care.

The hospital lab unit was sanctioned in 2012 for failing to adhere to standards. Last month, CMS did a follow-up survey at the unit and its latest decision was based on the results of that visit.

CMS' latest decision was announced by Karen Fuller, the state oversight and CLIA branch manager under the CMS' Division of Survey and Certification.

While Fuller states that the federal agency has rescinded or cancelled the sanctions it issued in 2012, she, however, warned the corporation of immediate sanctions once deficiencies are found reoccurring.

"We caution the laboratory to maintain compliance with the CLIA requirements for successful participation testing. Any future repeat deficiencies would be a basis for immediate sanction action to limit, suspend, or revoke the laboratory's CLIA certificate," Fuller said in her letter to the corporation.

Fuller's letter also pointed out

that there remains "standard-level deficiencies" they identified during last month's resurvey. She gave the corporation 10 days to report to CMS the plan of corrections for these de-

ficiencies.

CHCC board chair Torres disclosed that these "standard-level deficiencies" have already been rectified and addressed. He described the

items as "minor stuff" and have been resolved.

"The management is now putting together the report that indicated the actions taken for these items and

the board is confident that we can turn it in within the allowed timeframe," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Torres, "being vigilant and committed to resolve problems" are key to getting the desired results for the hospital.

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Nisola, Castro top Hopwood spelling bee tilt

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Two students topped this year's spelling competition at Hopwood Junior High School, winning the right to represent their school in the upcoming Public School System-wide contest this month.

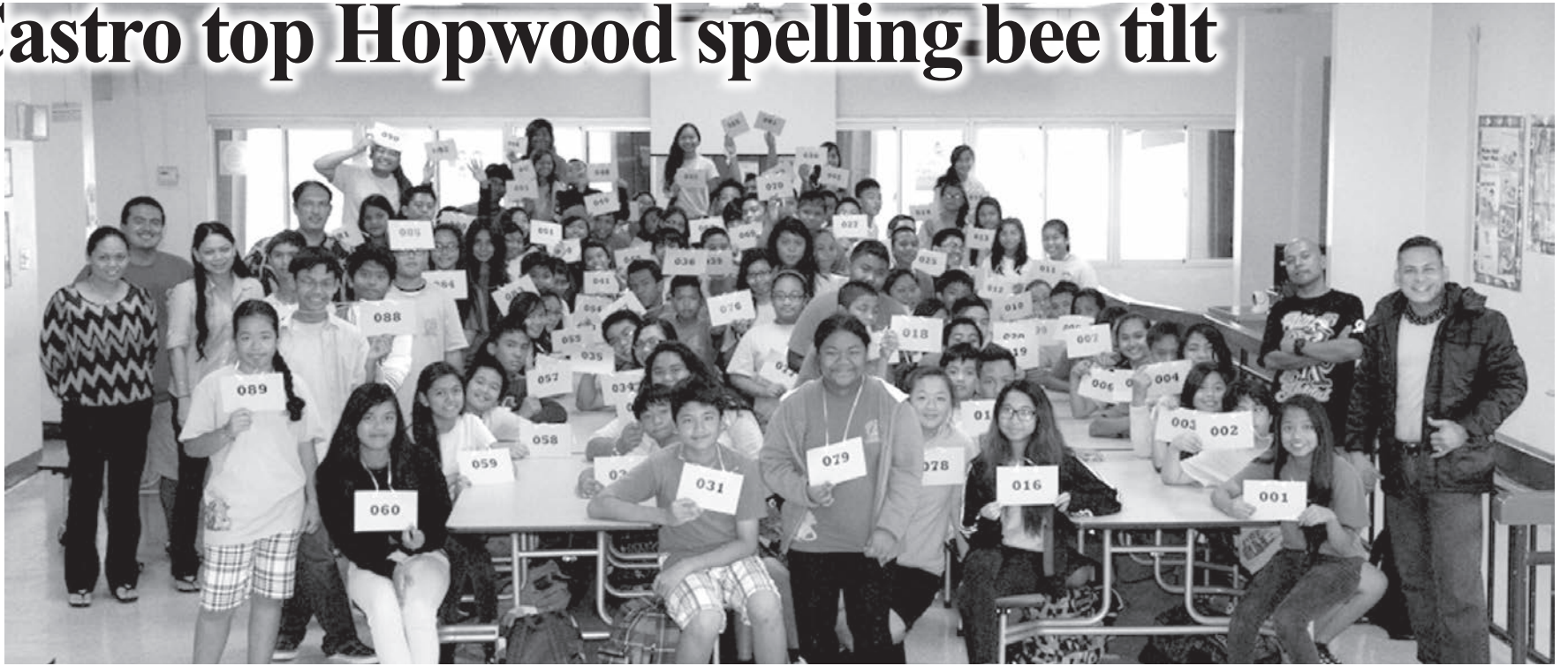
Eighth-grader Joyce Nisola was hailed the competition champion on Wednesday, besting 93 others in the initial round of the contest.

Nisola got the approving nod of judges after correctly spelling the winning words "stridency" and "vitriolic" in the final round, which had 20 contenders.

Nisola will be joined at the state-level competition for public schools by runner-up Christian Castro, a 7th-grader from Team D.

Nisola and Castro were awarded trophies and medals for their achievement while all participating students received certificates of participation.

According to Hopwood principal Jonas Barcinas, if Nisola wins at the state level, she will have the chance to represent the CNMI in Guam for the regional spelling bee and hopefully make it to the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants in this year's Spelling Bee Competition at Hopwood Junior High School gather for a group photo with their school administrators after the contest on Wednesday.

nationals in Washington D.C.

Barcinas said the school's spelling bee competition started last week and was organized by the school administration and staff. He commended vice principals for Curriculum and Instruction Epi Cabrera and Jocelyn Manibusan-Tudela, as well as vice principal for Student Services Lynn Mendiola for the successful event.



Nisola



Castro

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Tinian Marianas Leo Club to be chartered Saturday

Tinian Marianas Leo Club, an organization for 12- to 18-year-old youth sponsored by Tinian Marianas Lions Club, will be chartered tomorrow, Jan. 18, at the Tinian High School cafeteria.

TLMC guiding Lion Paula Madriaga said 27 youths signed up for the club, which will be led by president Ellimae Almogela. TLMC charter president Liz Hofschneider serves as its adviser.

He said the "Leo" in Leo

Club stands for Leadership Experience Opportunity. He said the organization is a younger version of the Lions Club, which will serve their partner in community activities.

Guam district governor Annabelle Dancel and Leo coordinator Margie Nicolas will fly to Tinian on Jan. 18 to grace the occasion. Board of Education chair Herman Guerrero will be the guest speaker.

Ten new Lion members will

also be inducted. They are Joey Patrick San Nicolas, Vilma San Nicolas, John Cepeda, Corazon Cepeda, Teresita Sanchez, Teresita Dela Cruz, Pinky Jocelyn Villagomez, Josephine Tagiam, Jonah Lagota, and Mario Almogela.

The group will fly the next day to attend the Region 2 Lions Medical mission on Saipan at Mt. Carmel Social Hall from 8am to 12noon. The mission is led by region chair Ruth Torrecampo.

Leo clubs are an official activity of Lions Clubs International that encourages young men and women to serve others in their community and around the world. Leo clubs are sponsored by local lions clubs and may be either school-affiliated or

community based. Its activities include regular meetings, service projects and social functions.

In total, more than 150,000 young people in 139 countries are proud to volunteer to

serve their local communities and to call themselves Leos. *(Mark Rabago)*



NEW GRADUATE

Congratulations to Jake Aaron Tomokane Liwanag, third from right, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Nevada Las Vegas on Dec. 17, 2013. Shown here with the new graduate are, from left, brother Dane Palacios, father Pepe T. Liwanag, mother Rose Tomokane Liwanag, sister Joan Ashley T. Liwanag, and brother Joey Duenas.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Regions 2 Lions to hold Health Fair this Sunday

Lions Clubs International District 204 announced that its Region 2 Lions will hold its annual Health Fair this Sunday, Jan. 19, from 8am to 12pm at the Daidai Social Hall of the Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa.

The health fair is open to the public. Services provided will include blood pressure testing, sugar/glucose testing, hearing and vision checks, eye health awareness, cancer awareness, and

general health awareness.

Sponsors of the health fair like Foremost Foods Saipan will also be giving away Foremost Milk on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Regions 2 Lions held its Health Fair last April 2013 and a total of 258 individuals availed of the medical services.

Now on its fourth year, the medical mission is an annual event that is part of the Region 2 Lions Club's community service. *(Saipan Tribune)*

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



A belated happy birthday goes out Leona Ann! Wishing we were all with you to celebrate your special day. May the Lord guide you in every way and step of your life. Greetings coming from Mom, Dad, Brandon, Quianny, Britney, and Bryanna Camacho.



Happy birthday to the best man and father in the world, Floyd Mafnas Mendiola! May you continue to be blessed with love, happiness, and kindness in the many years to come. Greetings come from your loved ones.

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Opinion

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Gusty headwinds of 2014

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

We've been floored by the gusty headwinds of the deepening fiscal impotence at home. This disastrous phenomenon is not only felt in government but most critically among households struggling to endure mind-numbing increases in the cost of living. The added costs have significantly reduced the buying power of families by more than 105 percent.

With livelihood of the multitude slated to deteriorate further, appalling that people at the helm are seemingly oblivious to the deepening mess. Its inaction exacerbates the mess by effectively shackling economic growth, destroying the economic freedom of our children.

Leadership suffers from some weird paralysis, seemingly clueless on what needs to be done and dead stuck in irrelevant village level provincialism. Some pretend to know what you're discussing or palm you off with weak-kneed views or otherwise evasive of substantive issues as he/she circles the car, looking for the key lodged in the ignition since time immemorial.

Did anybody recognize the exodus of foreign capital (about \$7 billion) in recent past and its ultimate negative consequence against the local economy? How do we replace it and isn't this grand negligence the very reason the CNMI's 2013 revenue was a paltry \$126 million?

Why is Kilili congratulating retiring chief architect of the CNMI's economic annihilation, Rep. George Miller, for exiting Congress? Where has Kilili parked his sense of history and how Miller completely destroyed a fragile island economy? Is the vicious labor champion and ruinous liberal progressive worthy of indigenous praise after sinking the livelihood of our people to subterranean abject poverty? Nothing can be further from the truth.

CUC's unstable power rates have forced a good many small marginal businesses to put on shutters. Ratepayers in the villages cringe amidst other hefty increases that have robbed them of more than 100 percent of their buying power. Has anyone burned the midnight oil to address and resolve the economic mess? It's all in the combined pile of incompetence!

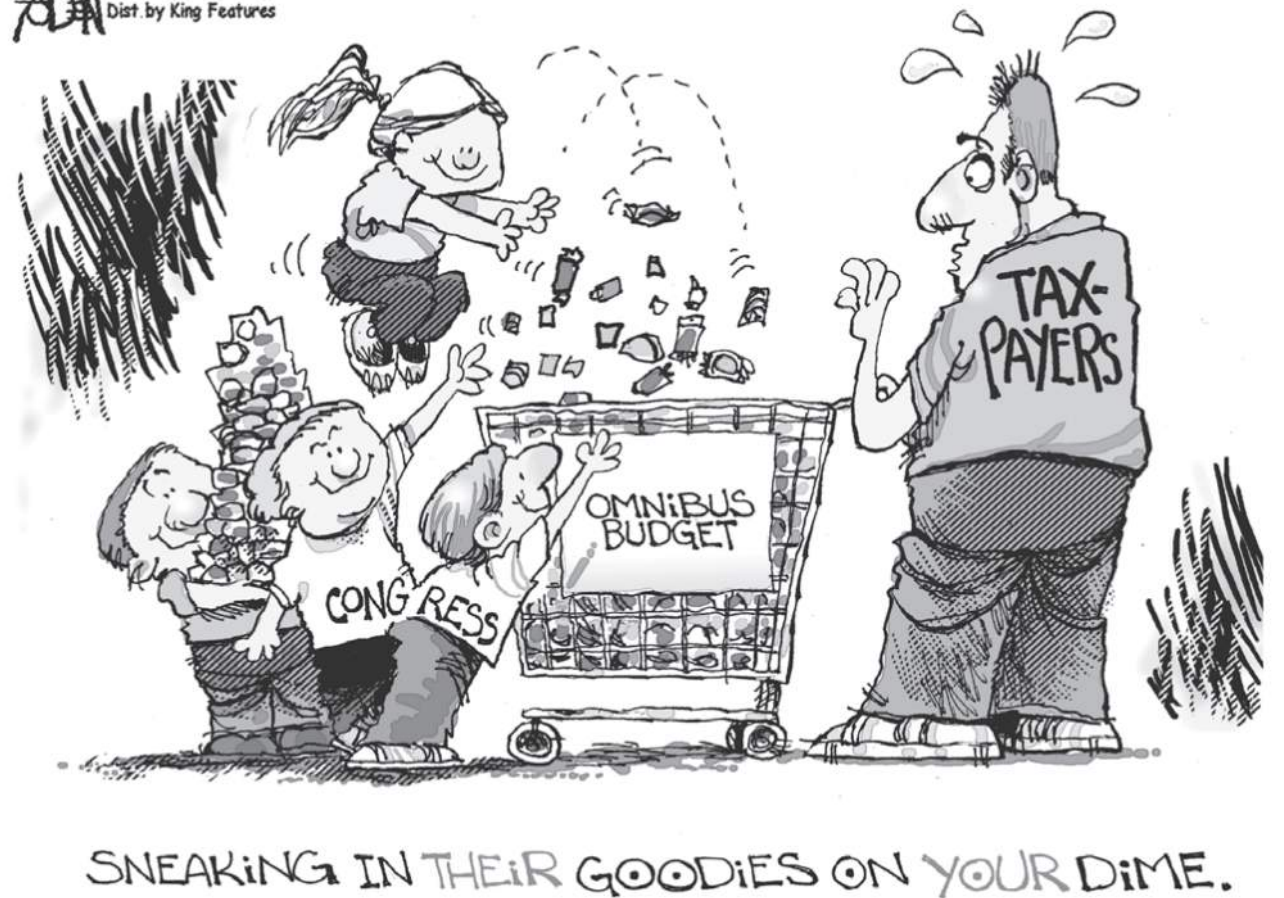
It's hope vs hope

Simple villagers hang on to "hope versus hope." One leans on guarded optimism that leadership would quickly resolve to resetting buttons on policy decisions to rein in fresh batch of investments.

We thirst for better days whenever the term "investment" enters our mind or daily conversations. After all, investment is the lifeblood of economic growth. The value of tomorrow's output is a function of today's investments in infrastructure, establishment of research center, strengthening of our educational system with definition; strong legal system; manufacturing; training and lasting alternative energy.

The purpose of investment is to create value and wealth, a process that fosters higher standard of living. Economic prosperity leads to opportunities for more jobs and revenue generation. We could talk *ad nauseam* what a healthy economy brings to a country or the adversity devastating the poor in a very anemic or sickly economy.

See GUSTY on Next Page

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2014 is our climate moment

Few leaders can say that the decisions taken in 2014 will play a big part in determining whether their country will still grace the world map at the end of this century. I can. Lying at an average of just two meters above sea level, my tiny atoll nation stands at the precipice, threatened existentially by the gathering storm called climate change.

The year just passed must surely have settled whatever debate, if any, still remained on the science of climate change. The world's biggest and most expert group of climate scientists, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, or IPCC, found that it is now "unequivocal" that human activity is warming our planet, and that many of the environmental changes we are currently experiencing are unprecedented for millennia. As U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said to an audience in my country late last year, "the science is clear, it is irrefutable, and it is alarming."

In the Marshall Islands, 2013 was a particularly difficult year. In May, our northern atolls suffered through an unprecedented drought, which forced my government to declare a state of disaster. Just six weeks later, our capital, Majuro, was hit by a king tide and rising seas that flooded the airport runway and many nearby homes, including my own. Then in November, we gasped and prayed as the devastating Typhoon Haiyan smashed into our neighbors in Palau and the Philippines, killing 6,000 people and destroying close to one million homes. Nearly 2,000 people are still unaccounted for.

While the Pacific is perhaps the region most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, this story is fast becoming a global one. In October, Cyclone Phailin battered India's eastern coastline and, during the Christmas just passed, the United Kingdom was brought to a standstill by fierce winds, driving rains and power blackouts. Just a little more than a year after Superstorm Sandy, scientists are already predicting 17 Atlantic hurricanes for 2014—this would be 15 more than last year, and the highest number since records began. Climate disasters are fast becoming the new norm right around the world.

Despite all these warnings and the knowledge that we have the economic means and technologies to accelerate the necessary shift to clean and green development, the fight against climate change is unfortunately suffering from a misplaced hope that we still have plenty of time to act, or that the proverbial silver bullet is just around the corner. In reality, time is already up.

In 2014, world leaders must finally rise to this challenge. Focusing exclusively on talks to conclude a new global climate agreement in 2015 in Paris is not a risk we can afford to take, not least because that agreement is not due to come into effect until 2020. As scientists have told us, global emissions must peak THIS decade if we are to have a realistic chance of avoiding the worst of climate change's impacts. It is time for us all to live up to our own lofty rhetoric, and actually do what is necessary to slow and eventually reverse the pollution of our atmosphere, in turn curbing global warming and the

By CHRISTOPHER J. LOEAK
The Huffington Post*Christopher J. Loeak is the President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and current chair of the Pacific Islands Forum.*

rising seas that threaten to engulf my homeland.

Last September, the leaders of the Pacific decided to do just that. Gathered in Majuro for the 44th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' meeting, we adopted the Majuro Declaration for Climate Leadership, committing ourselves to be "Climate Leaders," and listed a set of commitments to urgently phase down greenhouse gas emissions and embrace the switch to renewable energy. It is the kind of leadership that has the tiny countries of Niue, the Cook Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu striving to achieve 100 per cent renewable energy by 2020, and my own government to fully solarize the power for each and every one of our outer atoll island communities.

While these examples of Pacific leadership help to set the right tone, they of course will not be enough to bend the trajectory of global emissions set by the world's high-emitting countries and companies. For this reason, the Majuro Declaration challenged all governments, businesses and organizations to join our call for climate leadership, and register their own commitments to new and more ambitious climate action. While we are pleased with the support the Declaration has received so far from beyond the membership of the Pacific Islands Forum—including the listing of commitments by the United States, the United Kingdom, the European Union and the U.S. State of Hawaii—we are now looking to others to follow their lead.

With the urgency of the climate crisis intensifying with each passing day, the UN Secretary-General's invitation to world leaders to attend a climate change summit in New York this September could not have come soon enough. Learning from the Copenhagen experience, the Secretary-General sees his 2014 summit as a stage to announce new collaborations and initiatives to accelerate action now, and not simply as a podium for countries to "commit to commit" ahead of Paris.

As Ban Ki-moon said himself in Warsaw in November, the summit must "propel us forward through concrete action" towards 2015. This is why 2014 must not merely be a "Year of Climate Action," as Mr. Ban has labeled it, but rather a "Year of New Climate Action." In other words, we need to commit to do more now than we have committed to previously, including a new wave of climate

See 2014 on Next Page



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CASINO

The misuse of American might, and the price it pays

The U.S. military is like the highly skilled, gadget-toting contractor who promises to give your kitchen a nifty makeover in no time whatsoever. Here's the guy you can count on to get the job done. Just look at those references! Yet by the time he drives off months later, the kitchen's a shambles and you're stuck with a bill several times larger than the initial estimate. Turns out the job was more complicated than it seemed. But what say we take a crack at remodeling the master bath?

That pretty much summarizes the American experience with war since the end of the Cold War. By common consent, when it comes to skills and gadgets, U.S. forces are in a league of their own. Yet when it comes to finishing the job on schedule and on budget, their performance has been woeful.

Indeed, these days the United States absolves itself of any responsibility to finish wars that it starts. When we've had enough, we simply leave, pretending that when U.S. forces exit the scene, the conflict is officially over. In 2011, when the last American troops crossed from Iraq into Kuwait, President Obama proudly declared that he had made good on his campaign promise to end the Iraq war. Sometime late this year, when the U.S. terminates its combat role in Afghanistan, he will waste no time consigning that war to the past as well.

Yet the Iraq war did not end when the United States withdrew. Even with Washington striving mightily to ignore the fact, the violent ethno-sectarian struggle for Iraq triggered by the 2003 U.S.-led invasion continues. In recent days, events such as al-Qaida's ferocious welcome-to-the-new-year assault on the cities of Fallouja and Ramadi—roughly the equivalent of a Confederate army laying siege to Gettysburg sometime during the presidency of Ulysses S. Grant—have made it impossible to pretend otherwise.

Events in Afghanistan are likely to follow a similar trajectory. No serious person thinks that the war there—launched even earlier, back in 2001—will end just because U.S. troops are finally packing up to go home. No doubt the American public will forget Afghanistan as quickly as it forgot Iraq. Yet as with Iraq war, the struggle to determine Afghanistan's fate will continue, its duration and outcome no less uncertain.

The truth is something few people in the national security establishment are willing to confront: Confusing capability with utility, the United States knows how to start wars but has seemingly forgotten how to conclude them. Yet concluding war on favorable terms—a concept formerly known as victory—is the object of the exercise. For the United States, victory has become a lost art. This

unhappy verdict applies whether U.S. forces operate conventionally (employing high-tech “shock and awe” tactics) or unconventionally (“winning hearts and minds”).

As a consequence, instead of promoting stability—perhaps the paramount U.S. interest not only in the Islamic world but also globally—Washington's penchant for armed intervention since the end of the Cold War, and especially since 9/11, has tended to encourage just the opposite. In effect, despite spilling much blood and expending vast amounts of treasure, U.S. military exertions have played into the hands of our adversaries, misleadingly lumped together under the rubric of “terrorists.”

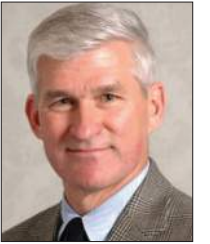
How can we explain this yawning gap between intention and outcomes? Fundamentally, a pronounced infatuation with armed might has led senior civilian officials, regardless of party, and senior military leaders, regardless of service, to misunderstand and misapply the military instrument. Force is good for some things, pre-eminently for defending what is already yours. Not content to defend, however, the United States in recent decades has sought to use force to extend its influence, control and values.

In a world divided between haves and have-nots, between post-modern and pre-modern, and between those for whom God is dead and those for whom God remains omnipresent, expecting coercion to produce reconciliation, acceptance or submission represents the

By **ANDREW J. BACEVICH**

Los Angeles Times

Andrew J. Bacevich is a professor of history and international relations at Boston University. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



height of folly. So force employed by the United States in faraway places serves mostly to inflame further resistance, a statement that is true whether we're talking about putting “boots on the ground” or raining down Hellfire missiles from the heavens.

What then is to be done? That which Washington is least capable of undertaking: Those charged with formulating policy must think anew. For starters, that means lowering expectations regarding the political effectiveness of war, which is demonstrably limited.

Take force off the metaphorical table to which policymakers regularly refer. Rather than categorizing violence as a preferred option, revive the tradition of treating it as a last resort. Then get serious about evaluating the potential for employing alternative forms of power, chiefly economic and cultural, to advance American interests. The result won't be a panacea. But it won't cost as much as open-ended war. And rather than creating new problems, this alternative approach just might solve some old ones.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A poor compensation plan

The article “PSS bares salary scale of personnel” is an interesting manifestation of a poor compensation plan.

First, PSS must demonstrate how it developed and justified its existing pay plan for its certified and non-certified personnel. If its present compensation plan is not justified, then PSS may have been overcompensating its personnel, thus its human resource system could be out of order. Any compensation scheme must follow a bell shape structure in that the bulk of all personnel should be within the average or median distribution.

Second, PSS must consider compressing its compensation schedule to a manageable and economical basis. It may consider a different approach such as a broadband pay design. In my opinion, PSS personnel system should consider introducing a pay scale of not

more than 13 pay levels. Consolidating the pay scale would pave the way for pay-for-performance basis and would allow PSS to use its pay practices to reward good and above-average performance outcome of its employees.

Then again, if the science of human resource management is absent as a considered and reasoned approach to PSS' compensation needs, continuing on with the present pay practices is even more problematic. So, for PSS to say that its present pay plan is in order, it must demonstrate that it was not arbitrarily set and historical data and study are available and could be produced to substantiate the sufficiency and appropriateness of the pay plan. What the pay of any public employee in the CNMI government should account for are the know-how, problem solving, and accountability of each position utilized by all jurisdictions. Hence, the compensation plan should bear these factors in its design and implementation, while meeting statutory mandates.

Francisco R. Agulto

Kannat Tabla, Saipan



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** Kia Forte LX retail price \$18,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$300.90 or \$138.88 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment \$18,054.00.

DFS Saipan donates over \$3K to MTEC

DFS Galleria Saipan on Tuesday donated over \$3,000 to the Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically or MTEC.

According to MTEC chair Vicky Benavente, the funds donated by DFS Saipan were raised during the DFS Education event held last year.

DFS selected MTEC to support its Tourism Education Outreach Program it conducts in CNMI public schools. The primary focus of the education outreach is to teach students the importance of tourism in the CNMI.

"On behalf of the Marianas Tourism Education Council, we are grateful to DFS Saipan for their contribution to the MTEC Education Outreach Program. Their support will assist MTEC to continue educating our youth and the community about the importance of tourism in our islands," said Benavente.

DFS Saipan president Marian Aldan-Pierce made the presentation to Benavente and MTEC board members during a check presentation Tuesday at the DFS Saipan office in Garapan.

Joining Aldan-Pierce and Benavente in the check presentation were MTEC directors Martin Duenas of Marianas Visitors Authority, James Nelson of Docomo Pacific, Larry Lee, and MTEC treasurer Chris Lubi of



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Standing, from left, Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically director Martin Duenas of the Marianas Visitors Authority, DFS Galleria Saipan operation manager Marida Pensader, DFS Saipan HR manager Esther Ada, MTEC director James Nelson of Docomo Pacific, DFS Saipan general manager Bruch Lorange, MTEC director Larry Lee, and DFS Saipan manager Ben Babauta. Seated from left, MTEC treasurer Chris Lubi of Ernst & Young, DFS Saipan president Marian Aldan-Pierce, and MTEC chair Vicky Benavente of Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Ernst & Young. Also present were DFS Saipan manager Ben Babauta, DFS Saipan operations manager Marida Pensader, DFS Saipan HR manager Esther Ada, and DFS Saipan gen-

eral manager Bruch Lorange.

Last year, MTEC and the Marianas Visitors Authority visited Koblerville, Tanapag, San Vicente, Dandan, San Antonio, William S. Reyes, and Garapan

elementary schools for its education outreach.

The MTEC presentation covered visitor profiles, how tourism helps the Northern Marianas, jobs in tourism, and

how students can help support the industry.

Aside from its outreach, MTEC also provides information on the various careers in the hospitality industry, and encour-

age their role as citizens to help keep the islands' environment clean and litter-free. Its theme last year was "Tourism Is Everybody's Business. 24/7 In the 670." (Mark Rabago)



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ADDENDUM NO. 1 1/13/14 ITB14-GOV-044

Repair/Replacement of the Mechanical Equipment at the Commonwealth Health Center (CHC), Saipan MP

The previously advertised, Invitation to Bid ("ITB") for the "Repair/Replacement of the Mechanical Equipment at the Commonwealth Health Center Project" has been amended. The specific amendment is to extend dateline for the bid submission. The ITB shall read as follows:

Sealed bids must be marked "ITB14-GOV-044, "Repair/Replacement of the Mechanical Equipment at the Commonwealth Health Center Project". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 9:00 AM ChST January 31, 2014. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 9:00 AM ChST January 31, 2014, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than January 31, 2014 and must be received no later than 9:00 AM ChST, February 11, 2014. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 AM ChST February 12, 2014. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will opened at 10:00 AM ChST January 31, 2014.

All other elements of the ITB remain as originally provided. For further information on this project, please contact the Capital Improvement Office, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. – Monday through Friday, except holidays) or by contacting Mr. Carl Castro, Contracting Officer Technical Representative at (670)664-2375 or by fax at (670)664-2408.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
PO Box 502149; Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 Fax: (670) 235-7147



NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

ON AN APPLICATION FOR A QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE AUTHORIZING THE ABATEMENT AND REBATE OF CERTAIN CNMI TAXES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that:

A. Public hearing. In accordance with the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and pursuant to the rule-making procedures of the Administrative Procedures Act, the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) will conduct a public hearing at the Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe, Saipan, on Wednesday, January 29, 2014, at 10:30 a.m. on the application of Sea Touch, LLC, Applicant, for a Qualifying Certificate, which request is for tax relief by way of abatement and rebate of CNMI taxes in consideration of Applicant's proposed business that will engage in interactive marine activities, marine animal encounters and other associated activities, all pursuant to the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and as set out in the Applicant's application for a Qualifying Certificate.

B. Nature of hearing. This hearing shall be open to the public. Oral or written statements will be received from anyone wishing to testify thereat, which statement will be incorporated into the records of the hearing.

C. Further information. For further information, please contact CDA at the above telephone numbers or visit its offices at the CDA Building in San Jose, Saipan.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director

Tsunami Saipan at Guam Short Course Championships

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura and his swimmers pose for a photo at the arrival area of the Francisco C. Palacios/Saipan International Airport after competing in the Guam Short Course Championships last weekend.



Tsunami Saipan swimmers are on lanes 1 and 2.



Two Tsunami Saipan swimmers and their chaperon smile to the camera.



A Tsunami Saipan swimmer competes in the 25y breaststroke race.



Two Tsunami Saipan swimmers pose for a photo after completing their race.



Two Tsunami Saipan swimmers pose with their trophies.



Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura, right, congratulates his swimmers.



Swimmers wait for their respective events.



Tsunami Saipan swimmers show their trophies and medals.



Female swimmers get ready at the starting block for the 50y freestyle race.



**Beats the heat:
Sharapova
into 3rd round**

28

Saipan Tribune Sports

**Wizards hand
Heat 3rd straight
loss, 114-97**

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32 FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2014

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

MHS shuts out Southern in MISO caging



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas High School showed no mercy against the hapless Saipan Southern High School, winning all three division games in the 2013-2014 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball League last Wednesday night at the MHS Gymnasium.

The Dolphins started their string of three victories in one night with a 51-24 rout of the Manta Rays in the ninth grade division. MHS held Southern to three field goals in the first game to earn the double-digit win.

Djaymarch Ong top-scored in the Dolphins' second win in as



many games in the ninth grade division after tallying 10 markers. He and Sam Darag led MHS' offense in the first half to lift the team to a 23-7 halftime lead.

Eight other players made it to the board for MHS, while only six scored for Southern led by Elnathan

See MHS on Page 30

Hula Girls sweeps preliminary games



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Hula Girls' Marie Javier pulls up for a jumper during their game against Futball in the Sun Palace caging last Saturday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium. Hula Girls won and kept its unbeaten record after another victory last Wednesday night against Wrecking Balls.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hula Girls kept its undefeated record in preliminary round of the 2013 Sun Palace Christmas Basketball Tournament after dominating the Wrecking Balls, 62-46, last Wednesday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Hula Girls finished the round-

robin competition with a perfect 6-0 mark and faces the last ranked Tappers (1-5) in the first semis match tonight at 5:30pm. In the second and last semis pairing at 6:30pm, the second-ranked Wrecking Balls (4-2) takes on No. 3 Futball (1-5). Jan Travilla and Friendly Joy Pena teamed up in giving Hula Girls a flawless record, as they scored

See HULA on Page 30



SIS leads opening day winners in v'ball



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Last year's finalist Saipan International School was among the opening day winners in the 2013-2014 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Girls Volleyball League last Tuesday night at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Lady Geckos were pitted against the junior varsity team of Kagman High School in the second match on the north court and won all three sets to start their bid in the eight-team field on a positive note. SIS, which lost to Grace Christian Academy in the finals last season, was right on target in the opening set against Kagman JV, 25-7, and secured the early win with a 25-14 triumph in the second set. The Lady Geckos went on to shut out Kagman with a 15-10 victory in the third set.

On the southern end of the court, Mount Carmel School also went 3-0 against Saipan

Southern High School. The Lady Knights, who bowed to SIS JV in the battle for third place last season, opened their campaign this year with a thrilling 26-24 win in the opening set. Then in the second set, Mt. Carmel gained more leverage for a game-clinching 25-14 victory before completing the sweep with a 15-10 triumph.

Meanwhile, MHS won the first two games in the league with its junior varsity squad prevailing against Kagman's varsity team on the north court and the Dolphins' varsity group stunning the defending champion GCA on the south court.

The Dolphins' JV team cruised past Kagman in the opening set of their match on the north end, 25-10, before laboring a 25-20 triumph in the second to seal the early victory. The Lady Ayuyus then avoided a shutout after bouncing back in the extended third

See SIS on Page 30

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Saipan International School's Adelle Hudkins goes for a spike against Saipan Southern High School during their game in the MISO volleyball league yesterday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.